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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

JOHN L. CORRIGAN,

Plaintiff,

V.

FRED C. PFLANZ, JUDGE A. HILLE, SHERIFF D. BARGER, DEPUTY PROSECUTOR B. SCUDDER, ADAMS COUNTY, and PAUL L. KIRKPATRICK,

Defendants.

NO. CV-08-0333-EFS

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR CHANGE OF VENUE AND DENYING AS MOOT PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO RECUSE

Before the Court, without oral argument, are Plaintiff John L. Corrigan's Motion to Recuse Judge Robert W. Whaley (Ct. Rec. 15) and Motion for Change of Venue (Ct. Rec. 18). After reviewing the submitted materials and relevant authority, the Court is fully informed. For the reasons given below, the Court denies as moot Plaintiff's recusal motion and denies with leave to renew Plaintiff's Motion for Change of Venue.

A. Plaintiff's Motion to Recuse Judge Robert W. Whaley

Plaintiff filed this action on October 23, 2008; Judge Whaley was assigned to the case. On January 23, 2009, Judge Whaley signed an Order recusing himself from this action. (Ct. Rec. 13.) Plaintiff apparently did not receive the Order prior to filing the motion seeking recusal of Judge Whaley on January 27, 2009. Because Judge Whaley is no longer assigned to this case, Plaintiff's recusal motion is denied as moot.

B. Plaintiff's Motion for Change of Venue

Plaintiff asks the Court to either transfer this action to a different circuit, transfer the action to a U.S. District Court judge from a different circuit temporarily sitting in the Eastern District of Washington, or transfer the case to Western District of Washington Judge John C. Coughenour. Plaintiff seeks this request because he contends he cannot receive a fair trial with an Eastern District of Washington judge.

This Court has been uninvolved in Plaintiff's prior litigation proceedings. Plaintiff failed to establish that the convenience of the parties and witnesses or the interests of justice require assignment to another judge. 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a). Accordingly, the Court finds transfer to a judge either outside of this district or temporarily sitting in this district is unnecessary. However, after the pending motions to dismiss are resolved, if Plaintiff deems consolidation appropriate, he may file a motion to consolidate this action with the action presently before Judge Coughenour.

C. Conclusion

For the reasons given above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- Plaintiff's Motion to Recuse Judge Robert W. Whaley (<u>Ct. Rec.</u>
 is **DENIED AS MOOT**.
- 2. Plaintiff's Motion for Change of Venue (<u>Ct. Rec. 18</u>) is **DENIED**, with leave to renew following resolution of the pending motions to dismiss.

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IT IS SO ORDERED. The District Court Executive is directed to enter this Order and forward copies to Plaintiff and counsel. **DATED** this 27th day of February 2009. S/ Edward F. Shea EDWARD F. SHEA United States District Judge Q:\Civil\2008\0333.recuse.venue.wpd